

# COUNCIL BRIEFS

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March 11, 2016

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**Tell us about your bicycling habits by taking the online survey:**

The Department of Community Services has prepared a draft [Bicycle Facilities Plan](#) and network map based on research of best practices from the National Association of City Transportation Officials, the American Planning Association, peer communities and collaboration with the West Hartford Bicycle Advisory Committee.

As part of the public outreach process, the Town invites residents to take an [online survey](#). The survey seeks to find out who is biking, why they are biking, how often, the major deterrents to bicycling in town, the types of bicycle facilities that are preferred, and facility improvements that are needed. The survey may be completed and comments may be submitted through Wednesday, April 6, 2016.

Written comments should be addressed to Town Planner Todd Dumais by email at [todd.dumais@westhartfordct.gov](mailto:todd.dumais@westhartfordct.gov), fax at 860-561-7400 or mail to Town of West Hartford, Attn: Town Planner, 50 South Main Street, West Hartford, CT 06107.

**Local Elderly Property Tax Freeze program:**

Imagine your tax bill frozen in time; that's what the Local Elderly Property Tax Freeze program does for eligible elderly homeowners. The tax bill for the 2015 Grand List will remain the same next year, five years from now, and 20 years from now.

To be eligible for this program, West Hartford residents must be at least 70 years of age as of December 31, 2015, have a maximum annual income of \$35,200 for a single individual and \$42,900 for a married couple, and must have owned and occupied their property in West Hartford as of October 1, 2015.

To learn more and to obtain an application, please call the Assessment Office at 561-7414. The deadline to apply is May 15.

**New West Hartford Center Beat Officer:** The West Hartford Police Department has selected John Cardone as the new West Hartford Center/Blue Back Square beat officer who will join Officer Rich Gesualdi. Officer Cardone has been with the Police Department for 10½ years and is also a Field Training Officer. John and Rich are also "bike certified" and will be seen patrolling on their police bikes.

The Police Department thanks Officer Brian Gallagher for his seven years of service as West Hartford Center's beat officer. The change in roles is part of the department's normal rotation to allow officers different opportunities throughout their careers.

**West Hartford Chamber of Commerce's**

**Economic Development:** Mark McGovern, Director of Community Services, will give his annual economic development report at the West Hartford Chamber of Commerce event on Thursday, March 24. The update will include a discussion of the local economy with a focus on new and renewing development and construction. The presentation will include commercial, small business, manufacturing and residential projects throughout West Hartford. Visit the [Chamber web site](#) to attend.

**Budget Public Hearings:** The Fiscal Year 2016-2017 Proposed Town Budget, which includes the town services budget, the capital financing budget and the education budget, was submitted to the Town Council on March 8, 2016. The proposed mill rate is 39.63. The public has an opportunity to voice their opinions at two upcoming public hearings: Tuesday, March 22 at 6:45 PM and on Tuesday, March 29 at 2:00 PM in Room 314, Town Hall.

Ronald F. Van Winkle  
Town Manager